

SAN ANTONIO RIVER COMMISSION

MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Municipal Plaza C Room, First Floor
San Antonio, TX 78205**

- A. Call to Order by Commission Chair, Dr. Julian H. Trevino**
- B. Approval of February 19, 2008 minutes**
- C. Briefing and Presentation on River Water Quality Memo**
- D. Briefing related to the Chair and Vice-Chair Mission and Vision Meeting to include the following topics, but not limited to:**
 - a. One Voice of River**
 - b. What the Commission will be reviewing**
 - c. Economic Impacts to businesses along river**
 - d. Suggested language changes**
 - e. Quarterly meetings with Boards and Commissions**
- E. Briefing and Possible Action on Proposed River Commission policy regarding the inclusion of items on Commission agenda**
- F. Briefing on Technical Advisory Committee: River Water Quality and Clarity**
- G. Adjournment**

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CITY CLERK
2008 MAR 20 PM 3:51

At any time during the regular meeting, the Board may meet in Executive Session for consultation concerning attorney-client matters under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Commission Meeting Disability Access Information: This meeting is wheelchair accessible. The accessible entrance at Municipal Plaza is located off of the Commerce Street entrance. Auxiliary services are available upon request (interpreters for the deaf must be requested twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting) by calling (210) 207-7245 V/TDD for assistance.

**San Antonio River Commission Board Meeting
February 19, 2008
Municipal Plaza Room "C"**

Members Present: A.J. Rodriguez, *Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*
J. Darryl Byrd, *Silver Ventures*
Julian Trevino, *Chairman*
Lisa Wong, *Rosario's Restaurant*
Lynda B. Burke, *Community Category*
Lionel Sosa, *Executive Director, MATT Foundation*

Staff Present: Penny Postoak Ferguson, *Assistant City Manager*; Steve Whitworth, *City Attorney's Office*; Trey Jacobson, *Mayor's Office*; Colleen Swain, *Downtown Operations Assistant Director*; Ramiro Salazar, *Director of Library*; Rich Walker, *Library*; Kathy Rodriguez, *HDRC*; Ann McGlone, *HDRC*

Others Present: Mr. Monroe, *Lake/Flato Architects*; Darryl Beauchamp, *Executive Director of National Western Art Foundation & Briscoe Western Art Museum*

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trevino at 9:11 a.m.

Correction to the minutes: Julian Trevino and Trey Jacobson left the January 22 meeting for a press conference regarding the Mayor's P16 Council.

Minutes from the January 22, 2008 meeting were approved with one correction. (*Linda Billa Burke motioned, A.J. Rodriguez-second*)

**Briefing and Possible Action re: Briscoe Western Art River Walk Improvements
HDRC Case: 2007-206 (attachments)**

Darryl Beauchamp, Executive Director of National Western Art Foundation & Briscoe Western Art Museum are currently in Phase I of a three phase project to renovate and add an addition to the Hertzberg Circus Museum and SAWS Water Park. They are working with Lake/Flato Architects and also Ford, Powell and Carson on exterior renovation.

Mr. Monroe: architect of record.

Issues:

Existing stair and ramp comes up off the river.

New Stairs currently lead people directly to the side of the SAWS bldg.

Need to maintain SAWS driveway.

There is a disconnect, visually, from the drive down to the river.

Existing ramp and stairs are visually intrusive, takes up a lot of room and is very tight because room will need to be made for the ramp.

Would like to take out the ramp and utilize the ramp at the Presa street bridge

Linda Burke asked about handicap accessibility.

Mr. Monroe responded that they will redo the asphalt with material/texture that is more pedestrian friendly, with a visually interesting texture and to make it accessible. New stairs will be created that will bring people up into the Briscoe building.

Another issue: existing Hugman bench needs to be maintained.

Visual barrier will be needed to be cleaned up. Architect will install light hand steel rail, so there will be visual access to river.

Would like to create a landing for barges, widen walk space and extend the Hugman bench. Mr. Beauchamp commented that they are spending a great deal of time on the educational values of the building. By means of telling the story of the history on site with signage of the SAWS building, bio filters, aquifer, the original wells and the original Casino club.

Mr. Monroe explained they are trying to be respectful of the existing 1930's building without trying to mimic it. They will use Texas looters which is a little grayer than limestone.

Mr. Beauchamp: just finished Phase I of a 3 phase project. Phase I is the exterior renovation of the building: stone cleaned, window units being taken out, windows replaced and historically repaired, have taken out the lead and abatement, and the roof has been finished.

Linda Burke asked if the stone will be a smooth texture like on the library.

Mr. Monroe answered that it's very similar, the block will be the same size but the color will be a little different. Indiana limestone has a slight yellow tint and looters has a little gray.

Ms. Burke asked if they will use the looters stone for the stairs and fence post.

Mr. Monroe answered that the limestone will be used for all the fencing.

Mr. Sosa commented that it is important to make it look like a building that has always been there and to keep the integrity of all the architectural feeling of the river.

Mr. Trevino asked to hear from Ann McGlone.

Ms. McGlone: in order for a project to progress in a timely manner, the architects come to HDRC with a model and idea about how they will use the space and tie the definition to the American Institute of Architects (AIA's) schematic design. Architect will go back for design development and refinement and then the architectural committee will come back to HDRC during the design development to take a look at the updated design. The architectural committee will give direction as to what they want to do and can feel confident proceeding with the construction documents. Everything is done in incremental steps.

A.J. questioned if it will create space for viewing of river from museum.

Mr. Beauchamp responded that there are a number of places on the site where they can have gatherings for viewing of parades, etc.

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Ramiro Salazar, Library Director, wanted to ensure the commission that the Library is involved with the construction process to make sure that protocols are followed and addressed.

Mr. Sosa questioned if there is any possibility that the barge landing will not be allowed.

Mr. Monroe answered that so far everyone is in favor of the barge landing.

No action was taken on this item.

Embassy Suites Hotel Briefing HDRC Case #2006-125 (attachments)

Ann McGlone

Embassy Suites hired local architect, Beaty Palmer and started to incorporate their design onto the river. The site is located at the corner of E. Houston and Soledad. The flood plane is located at the Houston Street bridge and Travis Street bridge. There can't be a real access to the river at this point, due to the flood plane. The stone wall and Hugman cantilever sidewalk will stay. Embassy Suites will build stairs at the river access. Part of the Hugman stair that over hangs will be lost so the new stairway can have access down to the river walk.

Linda Burke asked what the capacity of the hotel is. [16 Floors, 285 Rooms, 283,400 sq.ft.]

Ann was not certain but there are 16 stories in the hotel.

Mr. Trevino asked about the timeline.

Ann responded that they just finished the construction drawings and is currently in the permitting stage, this assumes that in 5-6 weeks work will commence.

Trey commented that the original concept design was approved before the commission was formed and wanted to inform the commission about what was going on.

Lisa Wong asked what the capacity of the garage is. [165 spaces located in underground parking]

Ann answered that not every hotel room gets parking, the ratio is about 1 to 7 or 8 and parking is optional and the hotel is a little above that capacity.

Briefing on Technical Advisory Committee: River Water Quality and Clarity

Linda Burke

In regards to moving the silt reduction and timelines they have asked staff to work towards giving timeline to public works and cost estimates as well. They will work on areas where silt is built up, not all of the river. Staff will come back in the near future and make a presentation to the board as to why we need certain things in the river that they can't take out as far as foliage, flora and fauna to help understand better what makes the river.

Mr. Trevino will meet with Darryl and Linda after today's meeting regarding the mission/vision meeting scheduled with the various boards and commissions.

A.J. Rodriguez suggested we post the River Commission mission/vision statement at our meetings.

Mr. Trevino adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Copies of these presentations are made part of the file and are available upon request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Julian H. Trevino, Chairperson

*Penny Postoak Ferguson
Assistant City Manager
City Manager's Office*



Agenda Item # C
Council Meeting Date: 03/25/2008

SAN ANTONIO RIVER COMMISSION
Presenter: Penny Postoak
Ferguson, Assistant City Manager

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Penny Postoak Ferguson,
Assistant City Manager

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) IMPACTED:

Council District 1, Council District 3, Council District 5, Council District 9

SUBJECT:

River Water Quality and Clarity Update

SUMMARY:

Staff will present an update regarding the water quality and clarity in the San Antonio River loop. The last River Water Quality and Clarity Report was presented to Council during B Session in August 2007. Staff has been providing regular updates to the San Antonio River Commission, the newly established Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and as needed updates to the Mayor and Council on the status of the River Water Quality initiatives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A special committee was formed in June 2006 and have been meeting regularly for the last eighteen months in an effort to improve the river water quality of the San Antonio River, primarily in the river loop. The workgroup includes representatives from San Antonio Water System (SAWS), San Antonio River Authority (SARA), Bexar County, and City staff to determine appropriate solutions to improve the water quality and clarity.

Since the inception of a River Water Quality and Clarity Workgroup many efforts have been implemented, achieved and a few consist of long term improvements.

The River Water Quality Work Group presented an interim report to City Council during a B Session in October 2006, a B Session presentation in August 2007 with an update, along with a report outlining projects, efforts and future recommendations that focus on improving the water quality and clarity in the river loop.

In 2006, the work group identified goals for the San Antonio River Loop:

1. Bacteriological water quality – consistent with the State of Texas stream standards for contact recreation.
2. Chemical composition - compatible with state designated high quality aquatic life uses

- (suitable to sustain frogs, aquatic insects, aquatic plants, and game fish such as bass)
3. Clarity - visual clarity of the water that allows fish and other aquatic life to be seen but not necessarily the bottom of the river

Testing in the River Loop continues to indicate that the river still does not meet Goal #1 which is the State's bacteria criteria for contact recreation. However, the River has achieved Goal #2

(chemical composition) and Goal #3 (water clarity), according to state stream standards.

Sampling, testing, and flow analysis have been ongoing for over a year and a half and are improving our overall knowledge of the river system. These goals have been utilized as a guide, as the River Water Quality Workgroup implement standards and analysis for the River water.

ISSUE:

Provide a briefing on the current conditions of the San Antonio River clarity and quality, both from a visual and environmental aspect, and to identify next steps in further improving the River water quality and clarity.

ALTERNATIVES:

A number of improvements have been completed since the River Water Quality Workgroups inception:

- Beginning June 2006 - Lady Eco: This barge has improved visual water quality from increased trash and debris removal. (Removes minimum of ½ ton of debris daily)
- August 2006 – Began adding recycled water into river loop
- August 2006 – SARA began sampling and analysis testing monthly (10 sites in loop; 2 in Main Channel). July 2007 – Monthly testing documented some improvement.
- October 2006 and April 2007 - River Walk Sidewalk Cleaning workshops for operators/owners adjacent to the River.
- January 2007 – During the annual river draining, 1st time documenting and testing outfalls, comprehensively
- April 2007 – Houston Street Bridge and the removal of bats from the area
- June 2007 - Appointment of members to The San Antonio River Commission
- 2007 - City purchased 2 water recovery power systems; Centro got 3 units
- December 2007 - Gate 6, located in King William at S. Alamo – SARA completed a project to control water flow to reduce erosion.
- December 2007 - Africa Live Exhibit completed (Hippo Relocation)
- January 2008 – During the annual river draining, additional outfall testing and 1st time for smoke testing through outfalls
- March 2008 – Completion of Riverbend Parking Garage Restrooms (Commerce and Presa Street)

In addition to these improvements, the following additional River Water Quality improvements have been initiated:

- River Walk Capital Improvements Master Plan
- Establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee on Water Quality and Clarity, approved by the San Antonio River Commission. The TAC is made up of seven (7) members from

various organizations and Commissions: San Antonio River Commission (2), Alamo Architects, Paseo del Rio Association, SAWS, SARA, and the former General Manager, SARA.

Possible long-term improvements related to River consist of:

- Improving recirculation within the River Loop
- The installation of a Gate in the Main Channel
- Enhanced flows, and cleaning systems
- Sediment reduction or deeping part of the River Loop

These additional long term projects will only be implemented as needed, and after careful engineering evaluation of possible water quality improvement.

Multiple improvement projects are ongoing and are further detailed in attached report.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of fiscal impact as noted in the attached report has been or if needed will be approved separate from this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

The committee recommends continuing with the improvement processes as well as implementing the new initiatives for the River Walk. Improvement has been made and the short-term initiatives have provided a baseline to begin tracking and monitoring water quality in a more comprehensive manner.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Draft – River Water Quality Update Memo

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**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager

FROM: Penny Postoak Ferguson, Assistant City Manager

COPIES TO: Jelynne LeBlanc Burley, Deputy City Manager; Pat DiGiovanni, Deputy City Manager; Frances A. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager; Paula X. Stallcup, Downtown Operations Director; Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Public Works Director; Malcolm Matthews, Parks and Recreation Director; File

SUBJECT: RIVER WATER QUALITY UPDATE

DATE: March 19, 2008

Background

City Staff and various agencies make up the River Water Quality Workgroup (RWQW), including San Antonio Water System (SAWS), San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and Bexar County. The RWQW was formed in June 2006 and has been meeting regularly in an effort to improve the water quality of the San Antonio River, primarily in the river loop. The RWQW identified both short and long term strategies in order to achieve this goal.

The RWQW identified the following goals for the San Antonio River Loop:

1. Bacteriological water quality – consistent with the State of Texas stream standards for contact recreation;
2. Chemical composition - compatible with State designated high quality aquatic life uses (suitable to sustain frogs, aquatic insects, aquatic plants, and game fish such as bass); and
3. Clarity - visual clarity of the water that allows fish and other aquatic life to be seen, but not necessarily the ability to see the bottom of the river

Executive Summary

Water quality in the river has continued to be visually improved over the 2006 season. This improvement is partially the result of the implemented short term efforts outlined in this report, and continued high springflow. Total rainfall increased considerably from 2006 to 2007 and the level of the Edwards aquifer remains at 685 feet msl. Several positive activities have occurred since the last update and are discussed in this report.

Water quality has continued to improve during the river improvements construction. The RWQW anticipates some additional improvement with water clarity may be observed with the completion of the Museum Reach San Antonio River Project.

Testing in the River Loop continues to indicate that the river still does not meet Goal #1 which is the State's bacteria criteria for contact recreation. However, the River has achieved Goal #2 (chemical composition) and Goal #3 (water clarity). Sampling, testing, and flow analysis have been ongoing

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for over a year and a half and are improving our overall knowledge of the river system. Many of the initiatives provide a continued base line for trend analysis in order to track improvements in water quality and clarity.

A number of improvements have been completed since the River Water Quality Workgroup's inception:

- Beginning June 2006 - Lady Eco: This barge has improved visual water quality from increased trash and debris removal. (Removes minimum of ½ ton of debris daily)
- August 2006 – Began adding recycled water into river loop
- August 2006 – SARA began sampling and analysis testing monthly (10 sites in loop; 2 in Main Channel).
- September 2006 – Zoo Project Funding was approved in budget
- October 2006 and April 2007: River Walk Sidewalk Cleaning workshops for operators/owners adjacent to the River.
- January 2007 – During the annual river draining, 1st time documenting and testing outfalls, comprehensively
- April 2007 – All sealing hardware in place and removed bats from under Houston Street Bridge
- January 2007: City purchased 2 water recovery pressure washing systems; Centro San Antonio (Public Improvement District) purchased 3 units
- December 2007 - Gate 6, located in King William at S. Alamo – SARA completed a project to control water flow to reduce erosion.
- December 2007 - Africa Live Exhibit completed (Hippo Relocation)
- January 2008 – During the annual river draining, additional outfall testing and 1st time for smoke testing outfalls
- February 2008 – Completion of Riverbend Parking Garage Restrooms (Commerce and Presa Street)
- February 2008 – Grant approval for River Walk Implementation Program (River Walk Education Project)

Multiple improvement projects are ongoing and further detailed in the body of this report.

River Water Quality Updates

Water Quality and Clarity Improvement Project

In the City's FY 2007 Adopted budget, two projects were adopted specifically to improve river water quality and clarity; the San Antonio River Water Quality and Clarity Improvement Project and the Zoo Outfall Water Quality Improvement Project. The scope of the Water Quality and Clarity Improvement Project is to assess and modify structural and non structural best management practices (BMPs), these BMPs are envisioned to decrease the biological oxygen demand (BOD), nutrient loading, bacterial activity and turbidity of the River water.

Public Works, Stormwater Division has been meeting with consultant, Klotz Associates, Inc., to develop a scope of work for the Water Quality and Clarity Improvement Project. The scope is anticipated for Council Action in April. The initial phase of the scope (Phase A) is to collect, develop and analyze data related to the project, including meetings with the Riverwalk Capital Improvements Advisory Committee, stakeholders, and other entities involved with the Riverwalk and surrounding area. Input from these meetings will aid in identifying goals for the project and provide updates during implementation of the project.

Comment [a1]: Is this the correct title of the Committee (Public Works)

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Phase A will evaluate existing and new data to develop a Riverwalk water flow and balance model, plans for sediment removal and management, water quality model focused on turbidity, and stormwater management related to the project area. Best Management Practices Manual will be developed based on data and findings above. Phase B and subsequent phases of the project will be defined based on the findings and progress described in Phase A.

The second project adopted to address water quality and clarity is the Zoo Outfall Water Quality Improvement Project, managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. The purpose of this project is to reduce the bacteria load from the zoo. This goal will be best achieved through the utilization of a disinfection process to be located in the San Antonio Zoo and adjacent to Brackenridge Park.

City Council approved the selection of the engineering firm for this project on August 30, 2007. The Parks and Recreation Department issued a Notice to Proceed for Phase A of the design to the consultant in September 2007. This phase is the development of design documents to 30% level of completion, and includes: surveys of the area, analysis of water tests, and site evaluation to determine facility location, size, and type of UV System. This also includes estimated construction and annual maintenance costs.

Klotz Associates, Inc. completed the Preliminary Phase A Report, which is being reviewed by City staff and stakeholders. Upon completion and approval of the Preliminary Phase A Report, Commission and Committee briefings will occur in order to report the findings of the research. These briefings will occur in late April 2008. Klotz is also preparing a report for the TCEQ to determine the type of permit required for the project. Staff plans to submit this report, along with the permitting application to the state in April 2008.

The proposed timeline estimates are conservative and contingent on permitting and review processes required by state and federal agencies:

Preliminary Phases – data collection, testing and surveys - 4-8 months (Mid-Sept – June 2008)

- Preliminary Phase A – data collection, testing and surveys – (completed) report is currently being reviewed by City staff and stakeholders
- Preliminary Phase B – 3-4 months (March – June 2008)
Preliminary Phase B is the development of design documents to the 60% level of completion, and includes: constructability analysis, determination of utility conflicts, in-depth geotechnical surveys of final recommended site.

Design (Construct Document Phase) – 3 months (July - September 2008 pending permit approval)

Construction Document Phase is the completion of design documents to the 90% level of completion. At this point the project is ready to be bid for construction. This phase will also include the consultants projected cost of the project.

Bid Process – 3 months

Construction 6-8 months

All activities are scheduled to be completed in June 2009, pending permit approval.

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The new "Africa Live" exhibit was opened to the public in January 2008, which included the hippo relocation in late December 2007. Water samples and testing are being completed by SARA to determine the water quality of the Zoo's current discharge (with the hippos moved). Sampling at the Zoo to determine the effect of Africa Live exhibit will be completed in May.

Sampling and Analysis

In August 2007, SARA completed preliminary sampling and analysis at seven (7) sites in the River loop and two (2) sites in the main channel. In September 2007 SARA established three routine water quality monitoring sites on the San Antonio River Loop to its long term monitoring program. Water samples from these sites will be collected and analyzed as part of the State of Texas Clean Rivers Program. The established sites are located on the upstream and downstream legs of the River Loop and in the River Loop extension, in order to track influences to water quality.. SARA is also collecting water samples in the North Channel at Houston Street and near the Lexington Street Bridge. Sampling will continue in order to track seasonal variations and other influences. All samples are being collected according to the State of Texas surface water quality monitoring and Clean Rivers Program protocols, the data will be analyzed according to State methodology to track compliance with State surface water quality standards.

The river still does not meet Goal #1 - the State's bacteria criteria for contact recreation. However, Goal #2 - chemical composition and Goal #3 - water clarity measurements in the river have shown improvement since the introduction of the reuse water at the Convention Center in August 2006. Confirmations on water improvement are only possible with certain parameters being monitored over a length of time. The monthly water quality testing has aided in identifying problem areas and documented that overall conditions in the river have improved. The bacterial concentrations, chemical composition and water clarity are being measured and analyzed by SARA staff to document trends.

River Walk Implementation Program (River Walk Education Project)

In February 2008, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) was awarded an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319 grant, through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), to provide an educational and awareness program targeting businesses which impact the San Antonio River watershed and specifically the downtown area. The River Walk Implementation Program will take a round-table approach with people who live, work and/or play in the San Antonio River watershed to eliminate behaviors that lead to increased bacterial levels in the River Walk Area. The total budget of the River Walk Implementation Program is \$320,460 with the EPA grant providing \$192,276. The remaining match will be provided as in kind services by SARA, COSA, SAWS and Bexar County as well as donations from downtown businesses, associations and foundations.

Education will remain a priority for water quality improvement for the foreseeable future. Positive results are occurring and staff will continue with the education efforts.

Additional trainings will be scheduled in the summer and in fall of 2008 with additional trainings in 2009, if necessary.

Compliance Program

This effort will be tied into the River Walk Education Project, as noted above. Public Works and SAWS work together to target entities that use practices that are not in accordance with the EPA's Clean Water Act, the Texas Water Act and City Code. SAWS' approach to the Compliance Program is

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to educate first and penalize second. This approach will help to train and educate downtown owners and operators, so they will be aware of the best management practices to correct any improper disposals.

Watershed Protection Plan (WPP)

The WPP effort focuses river and its tributaries. However, any improvement gained will provide additional benefit to improvement of the river loop water quality. The WPP serves as a guide to address non-point source pollution and reduce bacteria levels so that the Upper San Antonio River is in compliance with State Water Quality Stream Standards. Through the River Walk Implementation Program and in conjunction with the Upper San Antonio River Watershed Protection Plan, grant partners and stakeholders will implement water quality Best Management Practices to reduce the bacterial concentration within the River Walk area by 50%, bringing bacterial levels closer to the State stream standard. The 50% reduction was a reasonable goal that could be achieved through the grant project. The goal was set forth by SARA and outlined in the River Walk Education Grant application and accepted by the TCEQ. The WPP provided a list of Best Management Practices (BMP's) that are to be implemented in order to reduce bacterial loading to the Upper San Antonio River. The water quality improvement initiatives identified in the WPP will be coordinated through the Bexar Regional Management partners (BRWM) and monitored to document bacterial load reductions.

These are a few accomplishments that have been completed through the WPP since the Total Maximum Day Load (TMDL) action on the Upper San Antonio River.

Since the TCEQ, Total Maximum Day Load (TMDL) action was completed on the Upper San Antonio River, several water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) that were identified in the WPP have been completed or initiated. The BMPs include renovations within the San Antonio Zoo, repair, retrofit and relocation of sewage lines by SAWS, elimination of septic systems along the River, new downtown public restrooms, a new animal control facility and wildlife control measures. Reductions in bacterial loads will be documented with long term water quality monitoring by SARA under the State Clean Rivers Program

Control of Wildlife in the River Walk area

In April 2007, the City worked with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife on the sealing of the Houston Street Bridge. The contractor sealed the area under the bridge and provided a one way exit for the bats to escape. This effort has eliminated the droppings from the bats that have caused some concerns with the water quality in this area. The bats have not returned to Houston Street Bridge and all sealing hardware is in place.

The City is working with a falconer to address the grackle population throughout the downtown area. The Downtown Operations department is finalizing a bid proposal with Night Hawk bird abatement out of Dallas Fort Worth for bird abatement in the downtown area.

Illicit Connection Inspection/ Minor Discharge Sampling

In December 2006, a number of pipes were identified as discharging into the river. Many discharges are out of sight and below the river surface. In January 2007, during the annual river drainage and cleaning event, Public Works in cooperation with SAWS identified 402 outfalls that potentially discharge into the upper portions of the river, the river loop, and the south channel.

Sampling of the outfalls were conducted in 2007 and 2008. During the 2007 sampling event, a significant rainfall occurred and complicated the analysis of the results. The 2008 sampling event

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was not interrupted with a rainfall event; therefore all samples collected were non-stormwater discharges.

For 2008, eighteen pipes were found to be discharging flow to the river and samples were collected. Analysis of these samples indicates that 16 of the samples were of sufficient quality for continued discharge to the river. Two (2) samples were collected that contained high levels of nutrients, oxygen demand and solids content. The two sites where pollutants were being discharged to the river are currently being prepared for additional investigative work to identify the contributing business and terminate these illegal discharges. Aside from these two illegal discharges, staff was pleased at the quality of the water being discharged to the river for the remaining 16 samples collected.

A presentation on the 2008 discharge sampling event will be included in the April 9th, B Session presentation to Mayor and Council. Comparing the 2007 and 2008 data indicates that stormwater is providing the most significant pollutant loading to the river. Continued annual sampling of the outfalls will be necessary to ensure water quality protection.

In the river study area, no more than 50 outfalls have been observed providing flow to the river during dry weather or rainfall events. Staff will evaluate a method of plugging non-discharging outfalls during the 2009 river draining event.

In addition to the water quality sampling conducted in January 2008, smoke testing of outfalls to the river was conducted. Two days prior to the testing - businesses, the fire department and public agencies were notified of the planned smoke testing to be conducted. Smoke tests identified outfalls that were confirmed as roof drains or street drains. Crews identified several locations where contributing pipelines were previously capped and/or plugged, or where pipes had collapsed. One site was traced to an elevator shaft. Upon additional inspection, this site was determined to have the potential to discharge oils to the river and corrective actions will be required of the owner.

GPS Tagging on River Outfalls

There is a very complicated system of pipes that currently (or long ago) discharged flows to the river. In order to positively catalog each and every one of the contributing pipes, a Global Position System (GPS) will be used. The use of GPS will provide a unique identification for each pipe, aid in the construction of an accurate map, and will help to track the specific history and data from each pipeline over time. This system was incorporated into the work plan of Public Works during the January 2008 river draining and a total of 102 outfalls in the River Loop and extension were marked using GPS. These marked outfalls were placed in a database and mapped. This will allow for quick and easy identification for each pipe and help to track data over time.

River Walk Capital Improvements Master Plan

Public Works staff also provided a preliminary list of possible capital improvements which are scheduled to be designed in spring 2008. Funding for these projects has been received through the 2008 – 2012 Capital Improvement Budget.

Downtown Operations staff met with the Architects to discuss an update on the River Walk Capital Improvements Master Plan. The Master Plan will help identify and prioritize all capital improvement projects in the River Loop. The project began in November 2007 and the preliminary results will be

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available in May 2008. Final document is scheduled to be completed in July 2008, after stakeholder input. Currently, Beaty has completed a review of existing plans and an inventory and visual survey of existing facilities. The consultants are currently in the assessment/concept design phase of the study and are detailing functional/aesthetic improvements needed in the study area, along with design parameters for future construction projects. They have categorized improvements using the following criteria to prepare prioritizing a five year plan: life safety/code compliance, accessibility issues, and aesthetics/maintenance. The River Walk Capital Improvements Advisory Board funded the Master Plan, and provided partial funding for capital improvement projects. Beaty will provide an update on the status of the Master Plan to the Technical Advisory Committee during their next meeting on March 26.

Downtown Restroom Projects

The City has completed construction on a 24-hour public restroom facility at the Riverbend Parking Garage on E. Commerce Street, completed in February 2008. The City is also currently constructing a public restroom facility in connection with the redevelopment of Main Plaza which will be completed in the Spring 2008. Two additional restroom facilities are being proposed for downtown. These facilities will improve cleanliness along downtown buildings and streets by providing accessible alternatives.

Brackenridge Golf Course

The historic Brackenridge Golf Course is being renovated and redesigned to a PGA level golf course. The Public Works Department, Stormwater Division is monitoring this development closely, since the area is in a floodplain and drains into the San Antonio River. There is concern on the removal and addition of fill (dirt) that during a rain event might drain into the river and cause flooding. The contractor will be required to provide an excavation/fill log, documenting the amount of earth removed and added to the site. Inspections will be conducted by City staff to verify compliance with construction plans. All pesticides and fertilizers must be stored above the 100 year floodplain. The course is anticipated to be completed in October 2008.

Comment [a2]: Parks to verify PGA level definition/what will the levels be? Who is maintaining the standard/BMP's?

Additional Activities related to the River Quality Improvements

San Antonio River Commission/Technical Advisory Committee on Water Quality and Clarity

In November 2007, The San Antonio River Commission made up of five (5) five categories: Business, Community, Conservation, Historic Preservation, and the Tourism Category approved the appointment of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC is made up of seven (7) members from various organizations and Commissions: San Antonio River Commission (2), Alamo Architects, Paseo del Rio Association, SAWS, SARA, and the former General Manager, SARA. The TAC is currently exploring short and long term options to improve the clarity of the San Antonio River with focus on the river loop and extension, with focus on exploration of immediate options to manage sediment throughout downtown and southern sectors of the river. These recommendations will be presented to the River Commission and City Council for approval and implementation, upon research completion.

Construction Impacts to Water Quality

DRAFT

There are several major construction projects along and adjacent to the River from the Brackenridge area through downtown. Such projects include the Brackenridge Parking Garage, Convention Center Hotel, Main Plaza, Museum Reach San Antonio River Project, etc. All projects have implemented BMP's, although with construction there can be negative impacts to the River. Once construction is complete, water quality and clarity should improve.

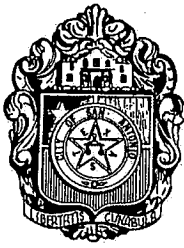
Long-term Solutions

If needed, long-term solutions (2009 and beyond) will require planning, detailed engineering, and funding. Long-term solutions may include: improving recirculation within the River Loop, installation of a Gate in the Main Channel near the existing Gate 3, enhanced flows, cleaning systems, sediment reduction or deepening part of the River Loop. These additional long term projects will only be implemented as needed, and after careful engineering evaluation of possible water quality improvement.

Next Steps

The RWQW and the TAC will continue to meet monthly in order to track River projects, water quality and clarity. The group will report back regularly to the River Commission and Council on current projects, upcoming projects and future recommendations. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Penny Postoak Ferguson
Assistant City Manager



Meeting Date: 03/25/2008
Agenda Item: D

SAN ANTONIO RIVER COMMISSION

Presenters: Julian Trevino, River Commission
Chair, Lynda Billa Burke, River Commission Co-Chair,
and Darryl Byrd, River Commission Member

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Penny Postoak Ferguson,
Assistant City Manager

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) IMPACTED:

Districts 1, 3, 5, 9

SUBJECT:

Briefing related to the Chair and Vice-Chair Mission and Vision Meeting

SUMMARY:

As a result of the Chair and Vice-Chair meeting that was held on February 27, the Chair of the River Commission would like to discuss the topics that were raised with the River Commission and allow suggested changes to the River Commission Mission/Vision statement, in order to incorporate the recommendations that were received from the Chair and Vice-Chairs.

BACKGROUND:

On Wednesday, February 27 a meeting was held at the One Stop Development Services Center for the various Boards and Commissions at the request of the River Commission in order to share the newly adopted Mission and Vision of the River Commission with the various Boards and Commission with influence along the Riverwalk.

The following Boards and Commission were present at the meeting: Historic Design and Review Commission, Paseo del Rio Association, Planning Commission, Riverwalk Capital Improvements Advisory Committee, San Antonio Conservation Society, SA River Oversight Committee and the Zoning Commission.

Many suggestions, recommendations and comments were received from the Chairs and Vice-Chairs in attendance. Below are the general topics that were raised during the meeting to include the following topics, but not limited to:

- One Voice of River
- What the Commission will be reviewing
- Economic Impacts to businesses along river

- Suggested language changes
- Quarterly meetings with Boards and Commissions

ISSUE:

To allow changes to the River Commission Mission/Vision statement in order to incorporate the recommendations received from the Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

ATTACHMENTS:

Chair and Vice Chair comment spreadsheet

River Commission Mission/Vision Meeting

February 27, 2008

One Stop Development

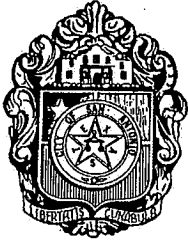
Names	Organization	Comments, Issues, Suggestions
Lila Cockrell	River Oversight Committee	The old River Commission was active as was David Straus. Although the old Commission was pulled into HDRC, Public Art, etc. But it is important to understand the new committee's roles, guidelines and what they do. The oversight committee was established in 1998 and given the advisory role of development and redevelopment of the river. There are 22 constituencies of the river who work closely with San Antonio River Authority until all construction is complete. Why should other organizations be needed to make resolutions from other organizations?
Darryl Byrd	River Commission Response	<i>We tried to get one overall vision and we all worked together with specific resolutions and we should all work with one Mission/Vision. This is more about the mission of the river as opposed to the Commission making all the decisions.</i>
Suzanne Scott	River Oversight Committee	How will the River Commission know what is coming up along the river with respect to zoning, planning, HDRC, etc.?
Penny Postoak Ferguson	River Commission Response	<i>We meet internally with staff when any items are forwarded that relate to the RIO districts and the Chair has been reviewing the items and has received briefings. There after the decision to take items forward for Commission Briefing, Action, Possible Action, etc.</i>
Don Gadberry	Zoning Commission	He would task the River Commission to identify and recommend any areas that are in the RIO districts or are not in the RIO's and recommend a change. His commission is open to any changes.
Penny Postoak Ferguson	River Commission Response	<i>We are all working together and no one body is more important than the next; we are not meant to replace any positions as opposed to complementing and/or supplementing information.</i>
Lynda Billa Burke Suzanne Scott	River Commission Response River Oversight Committee	<i>We are all in partnership for the "Jewel" of the River.</i> As we look at the Vision of the River Commission, how do other public agencies fit into the mission and "lens"? (Example: Bexar County, SARA's Board, etc.) More clarification is needed on the Mission/Vision. We NEED one single voice for river related issues.
Penny Postoak Ferguson	River Commission Response	<i>The River Commission crosses at least five (5) City departments/agencies, etc. It is important to have one single voice for the River, since there are so many people involved with the projects and impacts.</i>
Lynda Billa Burke	River Commission Response	<i>Wanted to clarify that the River Commission would be a "clearing house" and we would need to get processes in a format that items can be moved in and out quickly as not to take up time and money for people involved in the process.</i>
Suzanne Scott	River Oversight Committee	What/Who is the voice of COSA? Because when questions are asked to one department of the City and the same question is repeated to another department the answers very. There needs to be a uniform answer when questions are asked, no matter who is answering.
Darryl Byrd	River Commission Response	There is value to certain disciplines and the vision is not specific, it is broad enough for each commission to make decisions based on information.
Murray Van Eman	Planning Commission	Having a reviewed decision would be great. For example Tobin Hill sits on the river and is in mixed used development on the banks of the river. When we (Planning) look at a broad base standards it could mix in with other standards. What is the River Commission looking at/reviewing, are there any certain matters, or is it everything in the RIO Districts? or are you taking certain items forward for consideration? what exactly is the River Commission reviewing? When does it make recommendations to Zoning, Planning, etc? Is it a complementary recommendation? Planning would be willing to place the Vision on the agenda and put into the Master Plan, it is Master Plan worthy. Is the reviewing of items, items that directly affect the river or heavy development? What is the Focus? Only concern: is that the reviewing process will slow/bog down development.

River Commission Mission/Vision Meeting

February 27, 2008

One Stop Development

Names	Organization	Comments, Issues, Suggestions
Darryl Byrd	River Commission Response	<i>With the turnover in Commissions and Boards along with oversight, the implemented process would survive the organization, Mayors and with one small approval it could live through these turnovers.</i>
Trey Jacobson	River Commission Response	<i>The Mayor created the River Commission as an advisory Commission and nothing more. They were intended to provide advice in the RIO districts and the intent for partnerships would make the overall vision and process easier. The Commission is still working through the policies of the River and what they want to review and provide advice on. We are working to provide a standard.</i>
Lila Cockrell	River Oversight Committee	Can you clarify the roles of the different entities roles and help us to understand the legal relationship of each entity and role. Specifically with development details and how all the bodies fit in.
Trey Jacobson	River Commission Response	<i>Since the Commission is meant to provide advice on projects taking place in the river, staff will work with commissions on any recommendations and in the event of a conflict on a recommendation the ordinance states that Council Action can be sought.</i>
Lynda Billa Burke Irby Hightower	River Commission Response River Oversight Committee	<i>What keeps us from working together, rather than an item going to Council?</i> Does not want to repeat an old process. The Oversight Committee might say that the Mission is not strong enough for what we are trying to do. We need to think about the actions being a "on" button in order to push things along. Volunteer people are suppose to work with development. How are certain areas suppose to interact when oversight is needed. There needs to be a City staff level of understanding of certain land use and land forms, cultural sites, etc.. There needs to be institutional memory and I don't see staff charged to do that. We need to look at what's happening in the City and encourage all organizations to work together and helping to craft the policy.
Xavier E. Gonzales	HDRC	HDRC is proactive and they are always looking at the big picture in order to Shepard their thoughts. We welcome the Commission to be proactive and take on projects as they come into the forefront of the Commission. Take out the word "whenever practical" in the Mission/Vision.
Cecilia G. Garcia	Planning Commission	The Planning Commission welcomes work. The Planning Commission is technical in nature, and with platting. We make sure the City is moving in the right direction. The composition of the Commission is made up of 7 different categories and we are always adding. We need to ensure coordination within the City of SA with respect to reports and make sure that entities are working together.
Bill Lyons	River Walk Capital improvements Advisory Board	The private sector has to be profitable during this development of the Mission and Vision. We have to keep the ambience in place when making these decisions. With Bexar appraisal increases, how do we do what we want to do but keep looking at the bend? We have to remember that the River is an economic generator.
Jody sherrill Parker Scott	Zoning Commission Paseo del Rio Association	Only concern: Big Picture Impacts We need to preserve/protect the environment. The River bend is becoming a deteriorated section of the River. This process needs to be long term and needs to have practical political thought. We should look at the Big Picture such as: Water Quality and Businesses in the area.



Meeting Date: 03/25/08
Agenda Item: E

SAN ANTONIO RIVER COMMISSION

Presenter: Chairman Julian Trevino

SUBJECT:

Briefing and Possible Action on Proposed River Commission policy regarding the inclusion of items on Commission agenda

SUMMARY:

The proposed policy outlines guidelines that the Chair will use to select development-related items for placement on River Commission agendas.

BACKGROUND:

Ordinance 2007-05-30-0592 grants the River Commission broad authority to review any application for development-related permit submitted for a project located in any of the RIO districts. However, there are many permits that may not warrant River Commission review. (For example, a proposed change of zoning of property located three blocks from the River, or a new sign for an existing business.)

Furthermore, other boards and commissions have informed staff and the Chair that the broad authority has created uncertainty as to the type of items that may be reviewed, as well as the time required for this review. Those boards have encouraged the River Commission to clarify these points.

ISSUE:

At the request of the Chair, staff has drafted the proposed policy for consideration by the River Commission.

ALTERNATIVES:

No policy or guidelines would govern the agenda process.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff supports the proposed policy.

ATTACHMENTS:

City of San Antonio River Commission, Policy Regarding Commission Agendas and Review of Development Projects

Policy Regarding Commission Agendas And Review of Development Projects

Whereas, the San Antonio City Council (on May 30, 2007) established the River Commission for the purpose of providing public oversight, devising strategy, and providing public policy advice regarding the River Walk and the San Antonio River, in order to preserve, protect, and enhance the history, heritage, and ambiance of the River; and,

Whereas, the San Antonio City Council also amended Chapter 35 of the Unified Development Code to permit the River Commission to review applications submitted to the City for development projects located in the River Improvement Overlay districts, including the delay of items pending before certain City boards or commissions; and

Whereas, the authority granted to the River Commission under the amended portions of Chapter 35 of the Unified Development Code (by Ordinance 2007-05-30-0592) is broad in nature, and

Whereas, the City of San Antonio receives numerous development permit-related applications each month involving projects located in the RIO districts; and

Whereas, the River Commission seeks to clarify its policy for reviewing submitted development applications and the placement of items on the River Commission agendas;

THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING POLICY IS ADOPTED BY THE RIVER COMMISSION:

Section 1. The Chair, in consultation with City staff and acting on behalf of the River Commission, will make final decisions regarding the placement of items on the Commission agenda, including items providing for the review of submitted development applications. The Vice Chair will act in this capacity in the absence of the Chair.

Section 2. The Chair may exercise broad discretion in the placement of items on the agenda for review in order to achieve the adopted mission and goals of the River Commission. However, the Chair will follow the following general guidelines in exercising the authority granted under Chapter 35 of the Unified Development Code to require project review:

- (1) Any project, plan or permit application that was previously reviewed by the River Commission will not be considered for further review, unless the project, its design, or the application has been modified to a such degree that it represents a substantial and detrimental change from the original application.

- (2) Any project or design element that has previously received "conceptual design approval" from the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) and is pending a "final certificate of appropriateness" by the HDRC, shall not be considered for further review unless the project design has been modified to a such degree that it represents a substantial and detrimental change from the approved conceptual design.
- (3) Any application, plan or project that does not directly impact (e.g., located adjacent to the River) or indirectly impact (e.g., create nearby noise, congestion, or shadows) the River will not be reviewed by the River Commission.

Section 3. The River Commission, as part of its review, may elect to provide advice to other boards and commission considering a specific plan, land use, or design. Advice may be provided in writing or in person by either the Chair or approved representative. Regardless of whether specific advice or recommendations are made by the River Commission, the review process will be considered complete, following the presentation and discussion of the item to a quorum of the Commission in accordance with the posted agenda.

Section 4. If the Chair decides not to include a particular application, plan, or project on the River Commission agenda for review, that action does not constitute approval or "review" as described, above.